

# More Pronoun Problems

## Teaching

**Using Pronouns in Compounds** Use the subject pronouns *I, she, he, we* and *they* in a compound subject or with a predicate noun or pronoun. Use the object pronouns *me, her, him, us*, and *them* in a compound object.

Compound subject	<u>Marie and he</u> performed experiments.
Compound predicate pronoun	Amazing scientists were <u>Pierre and she</u> .
Compound object	They awarded <u>Marie and him</u> the Nobel Prize.

**Phrases That Interfere** Sometimes words and phrases come between a subject and a pronoun that refers to it. Be sure the pronoun agrees with the subject.

Marie Curie, unlike today's scientists, didn't understand the risk she was taking.  
(*She* refers to *Marie Curie*.)

## A. Using Pronouns in Compounds

Underline the pronoun that completes each sentence correctly.

- Marya Sklodowska was a brilliant science student in 1891 when she met Pierre Curie. Marya and (him, he) fell in love and were married in 1895.
- Great researchers were Pierre and (she, her).
- The search for radioactive elements fascinated Marya, now known as Marie, and (he, him).
- Pierre and (her, she) knew that uranium gave off strange rays.
- It seemed possible to Pierre and (her, she) that other elements could do the same.
- After many experiments, Marie and (he, him) discovered a radioactive element they called radium.
- Too bad they didn't know the harm it was causing Pierre and (she, her).
- In 1903, Marie and (he, him) won the Nobel Prize in physics.
- But radiation poisoning was already affecting Pierre and (her, she).

## B. Dealing with Phrases That Interfere

Draw arrows from the boldfaced pronouns to the words they modify.

- Pierre, who sometimes took radium from his pocket to show his friends, discovered that **his** health was failing.
- The muscles all over his body were losing **their** tone.
- His skin, which had touched radium for years, looked as if **it** had been burned.
- Pierre, greatly weakened by the disease, lost **his** life when he stepped in front of an oncoming cart.

**Lesson  
10****More Pronoun Problems****More Practice****A. Using Pronouns in Compounds**

Underline the pronoun that completes each sentence correctly.

1. Were you and (they, them) the winners?
2. The teacher called on Stan and (her, she).
3. Between you and (I, me), I didn't really understand that joke.
4. (He, Him) and I are working on a science project.
5. Lily and (I, me) drew the cartoons for the newspaper.
6. A taxi is taking (they, them) and us to the airport.
7. The Jaspers and (she, her) are good friends.
8. Rosita borrowed the CD from my brother and (me, I).
9. The best dancers were Mimi and (him, he).
10. Will you drive the Breens and (we, us) to school?

**B. Dealing with Phrases That Interfere**

Decide if the pronouns in each sentence are used correctly. If the sentence has an error, rewrite the sentence on the line. If the sentence is written correctly, write **Correct** on the line.

1. The Curies, both great people of science, were ahead of its time.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Radium, with its radioactive rays, was more dangerous than the Curies thought they could be.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The shed they worked in was famous for its leaks and drafts.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Marie, unaware of the danger of radium, kept some of them by her bed so she could see by its constant light.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Marie, an excellent student in physics, earned their doctorate in 1903.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Application

#### A. Proofreading

Proofread this paragraph. Look especially for errors in the use of pronouns. When you find an error, cross out the pronoun used incorrectly. Insert this symbol ✎ and write the correct pronoun above it.

One of the most famous teams in the history of science was Marie and Pierre Curie. To he and she we owe much of our understanding of radioactivity. For that knowledge, they sacrificed their lives. Marie and him spent countless hours in a drafty shed doing experiments. They were looking for an element that would give off radioactive rays. To Pierre and her, the search was fascinating. Once Pierre and her found the element radium, Marie was able to write about her findings and earn her doctorate. However, radium took its toll on the health of Pierre and she. They did not know that this element was dangerous, so Marie and him handled it freely, without even using gloves. Pierre and she both eventually died of radiation poisoning.

#### B. Making Pronouns Agree with Their Antecedents

Below are the beginnings of several sentences. Each beginning contains the sentence's subject. For each sentence beginning, choose an ending from the list below. Write your ending on the line.

**EXAMPLE** Pierre enjoyed showing radium to his friends.

his chemicals	his friends
their prize	their work
her doctorate	its damage

1. The scientists, with great determination, continued \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Marie, unlike many other women during those years, wanted to earn \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Pierre, a teacher, didn't have enough money to pay for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Curies, after years of work, were proud of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Radium, one of the most dangerous substances on Earth, finally did \_\_\_\_\_ and killed Marie when she was 66 years old.